

DR. BRIDGES RETIRES
AT SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

FROM THE INFORMATION OFFICE
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METROPOLITAN YMCA
OF MONTREAL

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS
UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOLS

May 13th, 1963

DR. J. W. BRIDGES, NOTED CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGIST AND
"FAVOURITE" OF SEVERAL THOUSAND GEORGIAN UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS, HAS ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FULL
TIME FACULTY THIS YEAR. HE IS 78.

ONE OF HIS BOOKS "PSYCHOLOGY, NORMAL AND ABNORMAL"
HAS BEEN THE ENTRÉ TO PSYCHOLOGY FOR THOUSANDS OF
STUDENTS, OVER 100 OF WHOM HAVE GONE ON TO DISTINGUISHED
GRADUATE CAREERS IN THE FIELD.

DR. BRIDGES WHO WILL BE HONORED BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NEXT WEEK, JOINED THE FACULTY AT SIR GEORGE IN 1940 AND
WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
IN 1941.

Dr. J. W. Bridges, who has been Professor of Psychology and Chairman of the Department of Psychology at Sir George Williams University since 1941, has announced his retirement at the close of the current session.

Dr. Bridges, who was Senior Professor in the Social Sciences Division of the University, was a native of Prince Edward Island, where he began teaching before he was eighteen years of age in a country school, ending up as a Principal of a junior high school. He left P.E.I. to attend McGill University, graduating in Philosophy in 1911 with the Prince of Wales Gold Medal in that subject.

He obtained his Master's degree in psychology from Harvard University in 1913, and his Ph.D. in 1915. In 1913 he was appointed interne in psychology at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital as part of his training being the first student of psychology to receive such an appointment, now commonplace.

Following graduation from Harvard he took up a teaching position in Ohio State University, but from 1917 to 1919 he worked in the Surgeon General's Office in Washington with Yerkes, Terman, and Otis on tests for soldiers.

He returned to Canada in 1921 when he received an appointment at the University of Toronto, and in 1924, accepted a position with the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene in Montreal and was appointed Professor in the medical faculty of McGill University. He was the first psychologist to receive a professorship in a medical school; there are many now, particularly in the United States.

In 1938, Dr. Bridges resigned to travel in Egypt, India, Indonesia, and extensively in Central and South Americas following a growing interest on Anthropology and Archeology. He returned to Montreal in 1940 where he accepted a part-time teaching post at Sir George

Williams University, accepting a full time position in 1941.

In addition to these teaching posts, Dr. Bridges has been Visiting Professor in the University of Alberta and in Clark University, and has taught at summer sessions at the University of British Columbia, the University of California, and Duke University.

He is the author of five books, two monographs, and a large number of papers in scientific journals. His "A Point Scale for Measuring Mental Ability" was published with Yerkes in 1914, his "Outline of Abnormal Psychology" was published in 1919, and he was the first Canadian-born psychologist to write and publish a book on psychology. A more recent text is his "Psychology, Normal and Abnormal," widely used in university courses.

Dr. Bridges is also Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow and Life Member of the American Psychological Association, Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association and was Honorary President in 1959.

Dr. Bridges was responsible for the effective building up of the work in psychology at Sir George Williams University, and his classes have been for years among the most popular and highly respected in the University. Many of his students have gone on to graduate studies in psychology, and some of these are now noted psychologists themselves.

In recognition of the long and most valuable service that Dr. Bridges has given the university and his students, the Board of Governors has conferred upon him the rank of Professor Emeritus upon his retirement.

D.B.C.

March 29, 1963.